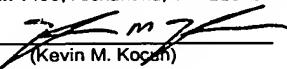


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: USPTO Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: October 31, 2006

Signature:


(Kevin M. Kochan)

AF/2006
JF

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Group Art Unit: 3733

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-429

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:	:
Casey K. Lee	:
Application No.: 10/648,001	: Group Art Unit: 3733
Filed: August 26, 2003	: Examiner: J. Kim
For: SPINAL IMPLANT	:

RESPONSE

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated July 7, 2006, finally rejecting claims 26 and 31-38, Applicant respectfully submits the following remarks: